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280410Z Aug 03

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 005456

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC KMDR TU
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
Turkish Delegation to Iraq: "Woman Soldiers Needed for Iraq"
-Hurriyet
General Ozkok on Military Reform - Hurriyet
US Conditions Loans on Turkish Troop Deployment - Sabah
Confusing Calculations - Milliyet
General Ozkok Wants Changes in the Military - Milliyet
US Condition for Credit: "Pass the Troop Decision First" -
Turkiye
Taylor: "Military and Economic Cooperation Part of Loan
Agreement" - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS
Government Delays Decision on Troop Deployment - Cumhuriyet
NSC Has Huge Authority - Radikal
Iraqis to Turkey: "Don't Come With US Troops" -Zaman

BRIEFING

Turkish Troop Deployment: "Cumhuriyet" reports that the government has decided to delay the troop deployment decision until after next month's NSC meeting. Ankara wants to see all the reports compiled by Turkish delegations to Iraq, as well as the results of the NSC meeting and discussions with the US, before taking a decision.
"Milliyet" reports on contradictory statements of government officials with regard to the deployment decision. PM Erdogan said yesterday that parliament will hold a meeting on October 1, as scheduled, and will not call an emergency session in September. However, FM Gul announced that an emergency session is still a possibility.

US Treasury Undersecretary John Taylor's Statement:
"Milliyet" reports that US Treasury Undersecretary John Taylor announced that the US might give approval to \$1 billion in assistance for Turkey in September. Asked if the timing of the Turkish decision on troops would have an impact on the timing of the US decision on loans, Taylor noted that 'military and economic cooperation have always been part of the loan package.' "Sabah" notes that Turkey has responded with a 'wait and see' policy on its troop decision in light of the US effort attempt to link the loan to military cooperation. (More complete media reaction to U/S Taylor's comments being sent septel).

NSC Authorities: "Radikal" gives extensive front page coverage to what it claims is the 'huge' power of the National Security Council General Secretariat, and draws attention to a secret regulation outlining the organization's responsibilities. Under the regulation, the NSC is authorized to carry out all necessary psychological measures for ensuring national unity and integrity, to coordinate its activities with intelligence organs, and to prepare directives for the prime ministry and other ministries in connection with the implementation of NSC recommendations. However, a new regulation in line with reforms contained in the seventh package will be adopted in November.

General Ozkok's Message: "Hurriyet" writes about the 'message of change' issued by TGS Chief General Ozkok. Ozkok made his statement after the hand-over ceremonies for retiring generals. General Ozkok said that military officials must be ready to adjust themselves to a changing security environment. The depth and scope of security has increased, and Turkey needs a high-quality intellectual component among its personnel to cope with this changing environment.

EDITORIAL OPINION

"America report"

Hasan Bulent Kahraman observed in the intellectual/opinion maker Radikal (8/27): "An American friend of mine, a most notable Republican involved in U.S. foreign policy, recently complained to me in New York that the U.S. Administration is confused and acting in a 'frantic' way. 'Two hundred years of U.S. values have been wasted in the last two years,' he lamented. He said he had witnessed a growing fury against the U.S. Administration during an extended international tour he had taken recently. . Newspapers and TV channels have become outlets of a kind of U.S. 'Politburo,' he remarked. 'You can get the 'real' news about America from the European press, but not from the U.S. media,' he added. For the first time in modern American history, Americans are facing a world of illusions at home, which is at odds with the most fundamental of all American values -- the truth. . 'The Administration has come to an impasse in its attempt to solve problems through military means,' he emphasized. . The U.S. can emerge from the Iraq swamp only through cooperation with the rest of the world. 'Regional cooperation such as that contemplated with Turkey will not solve the problem,' he said, 'but will only hurt our allies.'

EDELMAN